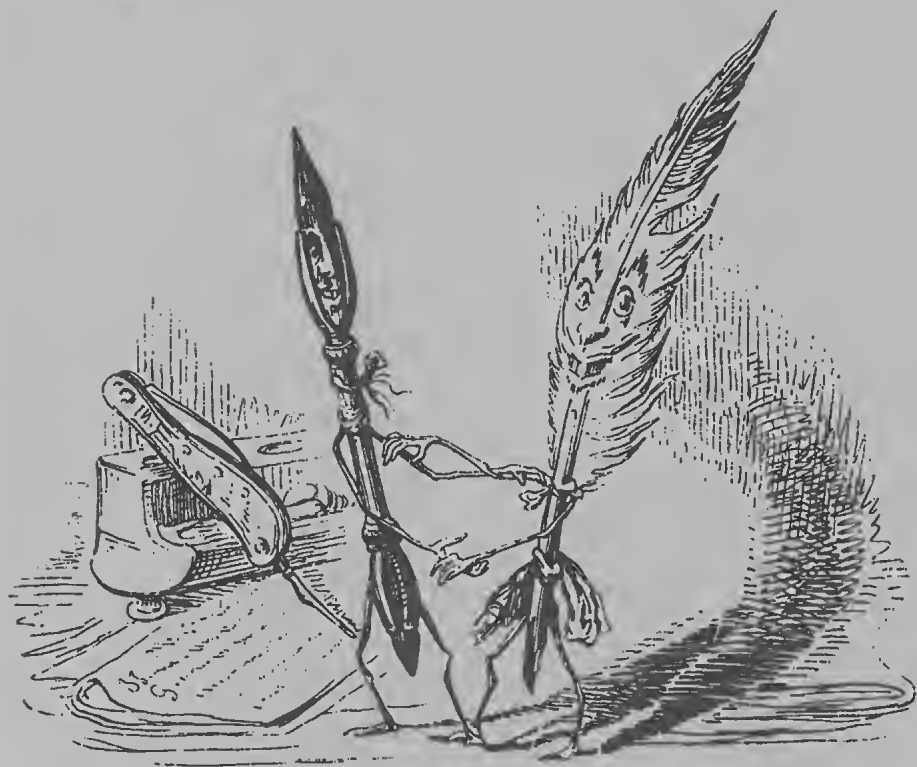


Spring 1994

LVII

MEASURE



Literary Magazine

MEASURE

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The Princess and the Poor Boy

Ryan Wright

Dedicated to Amy Wright

She walked at night, Thru the city of love
Wonderin' why she'd never found enough
Could it have been she's never satisfied?
Or maybe just that she's never really tried

He talked of love, As a prison cell
But what was inside, Well you could never really tell
He walked around with his eyes shut tight
Wonderin' why things never turned out right

She looked in his eyes, But what could she see?
'Cause he always hid behind his tapestry
She turned him away, I guess he thought it best
'Cause he never wanted to treat her like the rest

But deep inside, Lived the fire she'd lit
And though he tried, There was no way to forget
So he searched the city, For the princess absent
With the hope to convince her his heart would repent

He said, "Hold me close. Please don't let me go.
"Give me some more time. I'll let what's inside show."
She said, "Hold me close. You're all I've waited for.
"With you here, I'll never need anymore."

Say you won't ever set me free
Say you'll always stay with me
Say your love will never fail

'Cause I believe our love's more than...
A fairy tale

He held her hand, As they walked down the road
He held her tight when the winds would blow cold
When he looked into her eyes, It was to see her heart
To make sure the fire had never gone dark

And deep in the night, If you listen silent
It feels as if there's something heaven sent
'Cause the angels still sing, Sing a song of joy
Of the magic in love between the princess and the poor
boy

Loneliness

Zephyr

In my room dark walls surround me,
but I'm still alone.

My possessions encompass me,
but I'm still alone.

I sit on my bed and close my eyes,
I try to imagine you holding me.

But then I open my eyes,
and I'm still alone.

One Night

Julie Lawton

I have lost something that is dear to me,
Something I thought would always be.

The anguish, betrayal, and hurt I endured,
Is something I wish had never occurred.

It seemed so sweet, so right,
It is amazing it all ended that one night.

My emotions and energy are tied in a giant knot,
There is one thing for sure, forget him I will not.

True love is what it seemed from the start,
Now we are finished and so far apart.

One person is what we seemed to be,
Now all that is left is me.

My broken heart will be hard to mend,
I just hope I have the strength to love that way again.

I Kill for Elvis

Ryan Wright

Well I listen to my records, Fourteen hours a day
I listen to them backwards, And this is what they say
Well a--Well a...

There's too many people, Got to thin them out
If you play "Heartbreak Hotel," It's there without a
doubt

I kill for Elvis, I kill for Elvis
Well the king's alive, And he packs a .45
I kill for Elvis, I kill for Elvis

Take me down to Graceland, Where I'll be embraced
'Cause Elvis gave me fingerprints the cops can't seem to
trace

A darlin'...

He told me on the radio, And he told me on t.v.
You gotta rid me of that _ _ _ _ , Priscilla Presley

I kill for Elvis, I kill for Elvis
One look will tell, He's mad as hell
I kill for Elvis, I kill for Elvis

Yes, he told me on the radio, And told me on t.v.
Get rid of that half-pint, Jerry Lee

I kill for Elvis

Sick Inside

Becky F.

Your face smiles
behind hollow words,
so I know that your smile
is a lie
and that your words
mean nothing
even to you.
And I look around me
to see bright faces
that hang on every
syllable,
wanting to believe you
so much
that they don't even doubt
your integrity.
I'm sorry for them,
and I'm sick inside
because the day will come
when the truth is known,
and by then
it will be much too late.

Evil

Zephyr

It exists wholly, but migrates from the innards of the human soul.

It feeds hungrily on your fear and doubts,
Ripping its jagged teeth through the juicy flesh of your ambition,

and yet
it exists

within you.

Constantly feeding

You feel it eating away at you,

Rising to the surface,
methodically,

slowly.

Then it BURSTS forth, draining out of you,

laughing, as it leaves you,

feeling
decadent,

insecure,

and ashamed.

You retreat within and heal your now
ragged and infected flesh.

You realize it has left a seed, a spawn.

And it festers,

and waits, and eats, and laughs.

To Heather

Greg Potts

If ever I saw beauty more fair,
'twas but a sprite in starry air.
There is no comparable touch of bliss,
Than your soft lips when we kiss.
If ever there be, a beauty fair as thee,
'twill be, but a reincarnation of thee.

That's My Table...and I'm Jesus Christ

Ryan Wright

I was sittin' in a bar just minding my own business.
Checkin' out all the girls. You know the ones in those
cling-chest tops.
Out of nowhere, this guy with a beard and flannel shirt
comes walkin' over.
He's with these twelve other guys...all of them with
sandals on.
Well, they just stood there, all of them just staring at me.
Twenty-eight eyes breathing down my neck.
Twenty-eight eyes that just kept looking at me, and I'm
looking back into them, and they're still looking at me
looking at them.
Finally, I just couldn't take it anymore.
"What do you want?!?" I screamed.
And the first guy...the weird leader sort of guy, he bends
down to like an inch of my face.
He just sat there for a minute...
Breathing on me.
It was weird. It was almost like he was looking into my
soul.
That's when I got scared.

And then he asks me, "Don't you know who I am?"
All I could think was, "Psychotic ego-maniac, maybe."
And all of a sudden he just grabs my shirt, drags me to
my feet,
and screams...

"Hey!!!!!!

"Now listen up buddy, I'm not gonna tell you twice...

"That's my table...and I'm Jesus Christ!

"I think you better move on, I'm really trying to be nice...

"But that's my table...and I'm Jesus Christ!"

Love and Peace

Julie Lawton

Prejudice is an evil that we grow to learn.

As a child, love is what we yearned.

Why do our needs change as we grow?

Something as simple as love we shouldn't outgrow.

If we treated each other how we want to be treated,

Peace wouldn't be an unreality our minds just created.

Pretend

Becky F.

What man is truly free
who needs people around him
to love him?
What life is of its own
knowing it was created?
What person has felt loneliness
when others surround
and influence from all sides?
And what night is dark
when stars
or street lamps
glow somewhere?

Many times, we say one thing
when we mean another,
or we miss
the meanings we are given;
we play at life,
making it a game,
always knowing
we can never win.
So we pretend
that we can sometimes smile,
and sometimes
laugh at children,
and we pretend
that is enough
to keep us satisfied.

But lying alone
in my bed at night,
I wonder
what will become of me
tomorrow.

Why?

Buff

His boots greeted
the earth with a smile
as he plodded through vast
radiant fields.
Pondering some ultimate reality
and losing faith
in the truths of the ages,
he rested
not under a tree,
but under the hot, naked sun.

Something Out of Reach

Julie Lawton

Have you ever been infatuated with a person,
Not just a face?
Have you ever had a friend
No one could replace?
There is a friend in my life like this,
The problem is what I really long for is his kiss.
How can I risk losing such a friend?
I can't, so I have to pretend
That friends are all we are and ever will be.
I can't open my heart to him,
Even though I know he has the key.

A Ballad to My Heart

Zephyr

Many days you have spent crying
Many days you have spent broken
While you listened to your master sighing
And no words were spoken.

Your love is overflowing
You never keep any in
You're constantly growing,
Though at this game you never win.

The pain you feel is very deep
But you keep on falling
The cliff is too steep
But love keeps on calling.

Some would call you a fool for falling before you start
But I would tell them, "You are wrong, I'm just a fool of
hearts. I'm just a fool of hearts,
A simple fool of hearts."

No More Promises

Becky F.

I open my eyes
to you standing,
still, in front of me
with wounded eyes.
And your mouth
says that you love me still,
after everything
I have said,
but I don't believe you
because they are only words.
I'll accept no more promises,
listen to no more lies,
I will turn and walk away,
leaving you there, alone,
with your false pain
in your eyes.

I Thought of You Today

Seva

I thought of you today
as I ran my red fingers through my hair
I thought of your chocolate curls
brushing against my face.

I thought of you today
with a razor in my hand
I thought of your soft but strong hands
gently holding mine.

I thought of you today
as tears silently ran into my mouth
I thought of your eyes that change color
and your cupidoll lips.

I thought of you today
as I contemplated my wrists
I thought of your lean brown arms in the
summertime.

I thought of you today
as my breath escaped me.

I thought of you today.

1958

Ed Habrowski

Step on a crack,
Break your mother's back.
Pick up sticks, one at a time.
Mother, may I cross the line?

Marbles, shooters, cat's eyes,
Gyroscopes spinning, watching the world go by.
Yo-yos up and down,
Around the world and around the town.

Bounce the ball high and gather a jack,
Bounce it higher and gather them behind your back.
Flipping baseball cards,
Covers, flippers and skidders in our backyards.

Lincoln logs and baseball mitts,
Spinning tops, Louisville sluggers, and Tinker Toy kits.
American Flyer and Lionel trains
Kicking the can, slingshot huggers, and erector set
cranes.

Collecting bees, bugs and creeping critters,
In our pockets, but gave Mom the jitters.
Looking for China by digging a hole
Finding nothing but yellow clay and black coal.

Step on a crack,
Break your mother's back.
Enjoy childhood by swinging on a gate,
For tomorrow may be too late.
(‘Cause you’ve grown to be an adult.)

I Wait the Day

Jason Grzegorek

In a passionate embrace
I hold your voluptuous body
In my arms
But it is only a dream....
I wait the day
It will be real

Your perfume permeates the room
Even though you are not here....
I feel your touch
And gentle caress
But it is only my mind....
I wait the day
My thoughts become reality

Restless

Becky F.

The night is silent around me,
silent and still,
silent except for the occasional car
gunning its engine
somewhere off into the night;
still and black all around me.
Black, that is,
except for the streetlamp
right outside my window
and the bright blue numbers
on my clock,
I could see into any corner
if I wanted to.
I can't sleep.
I keep looking at the bright blue clock,
wondering how long I've been lying here
trying to go to sleep,
trying to think about anything
but sleeping;
but I'm still awake
and tossing
back and forth
as the sheets tangle all around me.
The minutes tick by,
only I don't hear them ticking,
I just watch them change,
bright blue on my electric clock,

and I wish the wind would stop blowing
and making trees
move the shadows on the wall
so I could stop looking at them
and just go to sleep!

True Love Is Lonely

Oscar Lorenzo

god cried
and his tears covered the earth
man sighed
wondering what it was worth
rain fell
and no one was filled with mirth
but hell
was robbed with this day's rebirth

Dismal Pirates

Ryan Wright

A century of sorrow, The cold winds blew our way
And the night's all that saved us from every sunless day
The gods looked down in pity at the things that they had
done

And now I've come to realize my misery's just begun

When the timelessness of hours breed thoughts of a
familiar land

I can see what's in the eyes of every broken man
A heart that's holding secrets, And a soul just holding on
But the things we held dearest are the things that are
long gone

I ask myself why, It's this wasted life I lead
But I've lied to myself so long, It's all I've left to believe
For the truth holds answers I'd rather never know
There's another world in which I'll pay a greater toll

And dismal are the dreams I've slipped in to the wake
and solitude in men feed the fires of hate
Please don't ask me questions, Of adventures of the sea
'Cause the edge of the world's come crashin' down on
me

Tonight we set sail forever
Leave our hearts and homes behind
Tragedy's our captain
We betrayed our souls and minds

And tonight's just the beginning
So pray for me, my friend
'Cause tonight we set sail
To try to find the end

Peppermints Are

Greg Potts

Troubles that rage red- like the sun,
at the start of day.
And melt- sticky sweet
in the mouth- of a wet night.

My World

Zephyr

Come into my world,
my dark dark world.

Don't be fooled by the darkness,
don't be afraid my love, come in, come in.

Lose yourself in blissful oblivion.

Let the darkness weigh down upon you like wet sand.
Don't resist it,

let it overtake you, as the sun overtakes night.
Embrace it and it will return your embraces.

Fight it and you will be utterly conquered.
Just let it happen my love.

Give in to my world, and it will give of itself wholly to
you.

Blissful Enchantment.
Sweet Oblivion.

Come into my world, fall into me.
The darkness waits.

Precious World

Julie Lawton

"Our world is full of so many wonderful things,
We should all be as happy as kings."
But instead we abuse what was given us at birth,
We constantly continue to rape our Mother Earth.
Is this what God anticipated we would do?
Or have we sanely transformed His precious world into a
zoo?
We need to care and embrace this world with our arms
Before we continue to do more harm.

Conflict

Buff

Death crowds my mind
Realization of life's joy
Morrison's squirming brain
Insecurity
Danger signs ahead
Time to run
My own revolution
It's a brand new world
Brand spanking new
Like Tommy Johnson's big wheel
Damn
Tommy's big wheel broke
Broke in half
A big wheel divided
Here we go again

With Your Eyes

Becky F.

I want to see things
with your eyes,
to know life
as you know it.
I want to hear
my words
as they sound
to your ears,
to taste my skin
with your tongue.
I want to feel
what you feel for me
in the very depths
of your soul,
and I want to give you
the gift of myself
so you, too,
can experience
those things
that I see,
and I hear,
and I know,
and I feel
because I want you
to understand me.

You Can't Hurt Me Anymore

Ryan Wright

If I'm far and wide, And dead inside
You can't hurt me
You can't hurt me anymore

If I'm deaf and blind, Far from divine
You can't hurt me
You can't hurt me anymore

If I'm dead inside, And crucified
You can't hurt me
You can't hurt me anymore

If I'm far from divine, Intoxicated blind
You can't hurt me
You can't hurt me anymore

Please don't hurt me anymore
I'll be sorry, Just let me know what for
Just please don't hurt me anymore

Reality

Zephyr

The gloomy day encompasses my thoughts.
I am lost in the pit of my imagination.

I try to crawl out, but I am sucked back in by my
fantasies.

My reality is not reality.
My imagination is.

Freeze my limbs, my heart and my emotions,
but don't freeze my mind.

Because in it I exist.

And without it I have no reality.

Thank You for Everything

Julie Lawton

As I grew up I thought I knew everything.
Then it occurred to me, maybe I was wrong.
And I thought maybe my parents could teach me
something,
Mom and Dad I'm sorry this realization took so long.

Now I know everything I've learned, you two have taught,
Like the important things in life can not be bought.
And what really matters is to be loving, honest, and kind,
And to live by the Golden Rule and I'll be fine.

Now I know you two are living examples of this,
Of all that's moral, honest and virtuous.
You've given me the confidence to fly like a dove,
I could never have accomplished anything without you,
your support and love.

Gone

Buff

Swirling waters
Like my mind
Are confused
But out of madness
Images appear
Soothing the pain
Recalling pictures
Enveloping my body
Circling my love
Consummating this strange relation
Presence in absence
Forever etched
In swirling waters

Tonight

Becky F.

I feel old tonight,
older than the stars,
and wiser than the moon
with all her secrets;
sadness fills me
like an ocean
with shores
too far apart to travel,
and I just want
the loneliness to end.
The moaning wind
comforts me
and trees invite me
to stand beneath them
and let the darkness
fill me,
to become a part
of this night
which is also alone.
So I run to meet the night
as a lover
who has long been gone
and I am embraced
as a child
who was lost—
I will never be lost again.

...Into the Darkness

Jason Grzegorek

Here
all is silent
and black
 (as a soul forsaken)

I move
 (her face upon the waters)
as if in a dream

Devouring the loneliness
 (but never totally)
 and the fear
which suppresses me
I try to stay
 but cannot

Isn't She Lovely

Ryan Wright

Isn't she lovely, Sittin' in her chair
Isn't she lovely, With her long blonde hair
And isn't she lovely, With that angel's smile
I'd just like to hold her, In my arms for a while

Isn't she lovely, With those beautiful eyes
Isn't she lovely, When we say goodnight
And isn't she lovely, Walkin' down the street
Just like the sun, Melting into the sea

Could she be, More than young and free?
She's every man's fantasy
I'm terminal, A fool for her
I break down every day
I just break down every day

Isn't she lovely, When she looks my way
Isn't she lovely, In the sunshine and the rain
And isn't she lovely, When she's by my side
Shines brighter than the sun, And the stars in the sky

Isn't she lovely
Well she is to me

On Poetry

Greg Potts

Let the poet labor daily,
 like a seamstress.
The seamstress weaves,
 thread with ease.
So let the poet be,
 a weaver of words.
Let the poet weave only words,
 not ideas unless- they be in things.
Manipulate rhyme and meter,
 with nimble fingers and sharp pen,
 until the form falls into place.
Cut and snip with simile and metaphor.

Well woven words will give rise,
 to a beautifully crafted pattern.
Let the poet labor- like a seamstress,
 crafting the art of production.
Let the threads of words be final.
Meanings hidden and neatly woven.

Children

Becky F.

My dreams are haunted
by the children
of the next generation
who are born into a world
of nuclear bombs,
and air that clogs lungs,
and rains that ruin
forests full of trees.

What will we leave for these children,
what stories will we tell?
Will they only know of a green Earth
through pictures and story books?
Will they ever feel safe in their homes?
Will they ever know life
as we know it?
Will we even allow them
to have life,
these children
who live in my head?

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